

# JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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## CENTENNIAL EVANGELISM OF UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Seventy representatives of the 14 districts of the United Church of Christ in Japan met at Amagi Sanso in Isu peninsula to lay plans for evangelism during the ensuing year. 1957 will be "Women Emphasis Year", just as this is "Youth Emphasis Year". Under a general plan for permeating society in general, the CHURCH HEAD-QUARTERS will emphasize 1) good-will evangelism to the churches, 2) regional evangelistic councils, 3) literature promotion, 4) cooperation with educational and social welfare agencies, 5) organization of lay-clergy evangelistic bodies, 6) utilization of the 1958 World Sunday School Convention, 7) preparation for overseas evangelism activities, and 8) research on methods of evangelism. The DISTRICTS will stress 1) local independent evangelistic activities, 2) strengthening of small churches, 3) cooperative evangelism, and 4) cooperation with missionaries. The LOCAL CHURCHES will promote 1) membership training, 2) neighborhood evangelism, 3) development of evangelistic methods, 4) pioneer evangelism, 5) visitation evangelism, and 6) home meetings.

## JAPANESE YMCA SECRETARY FOR BRAZIL

Mr. Yoshimichi Ebizawa, Religious Secretary of the National YMCA is to become a secretary in the National YMCA of Brazil. An informal invitation to send such a secretary was extended through





Mr. Kentaro Buma, of C.W.S., who visited Brazil early this year. Later a formal invitation was received by Mr. Soichi Saito, General Secretary, and Mr. Ebizawa was recommended for the position. He is 33 years old, a graduate of Doshisha University and studied at Oberlin College in the USA before becoming secretary of the National YMCA. He is the third son of The Reverend Akira Ebizawa, former General Secretary of the NCC. He sails in October with his wife for a period of from three to five years.

### OKINAWA LAND PROBLEM

The Committee on International Relations of the National Christian Council has decided to study the Okinawa Land Problem carefully before issuing any statement. At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council the subject was informally discussed and some present urged that a statement be issued at once. But others urged that the subject should be studied thoroughly first. Representative of this position was Mr. Soichi Saito, General Secretary of the National YMCA, who said, "Before issuing a statement, it is necessary for us to investigate the subject thoroughly. At present we do not have enough data. It is highly dangerous to pass judgment only on the basis of newspapers and magazines."

### CHRISTIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS MEET

A conference of Principals of Christian Primary schools in the Kanto area was held at the Ginza Christian Center on July 13 to discuss problems related to religious education and the teaching of English. Schools represented were Toyo Eiwa, Aoyama Gakuin, Kanto Gakuin, Yokosuka Gakuin, Urawa Seibo (Pure Hope) Gakuen and the Japan School for the Deaf (Rowa Gakko). The conference was held under the auspices of the Education Association of Christian schools which has eleven affiliated primary schools, eight of which are in the Kansai.

### EAST ASIAN RURAL LEADERS CONFERENCE

The First East Asian Rural Leaders Conference was held at the National Christian Rural Service and Training Center at Hino in the suburbs of Tokyo, July 17-20, with a total attendance of about fifty Japanese and thirteen foreign delegates. Much time was devoted to discussing the (1) development of technical knowledge in farming, (2) family and home life betterment, (3) democratization





of rural life and industry, (4) community development, (5) urbanization, (6) training rural leaders, (7) rural evangelism, (8) self-support and related subjects. The addresses were as previously reported.

The Reverend Probowimoto, General Secretary of the National Missionary Commission of the Indonesian Council of Churches, in speaking of the conference said; "During the war I saw many Japanese soldiers, who made a very unfavorable impression on me. But now that I have come to Japan, I forget the many evil events of wartime. We cannot expect to achieve large results at the first conference of this kind but I look forward to working for the evangelism of Asia under the leadership of Japanese Christians." Commented Dr. Winburn Thomas of the Indonesian Council of Churches; "I lived here before the war but the Japanese did not show their smiling faces as they do now. The conference has been worthwhile. The Asia Council on Ecumenical Mission aims at the evangelism of Asia by Asians who know this area best."

A reception for the delegates was held at the Ginza Christian Center on July 20. During the following week the delegates visited Christian rural centers in the Tokyo region, the Rifu Rural Parish Center in Matsushima near Sendai, the Enshu Rural Parish Center in Shizuoka, Omi Brotherhood, and the Iimorino Regional Center near Kobe.

Foreign delegates in addition to those from Indonesia were The Reverend M.C. Barberi and The Reverend Sadao Matsuda from Okinawa, Dr. Santiago G. Iyoy and Mr. Edelberts A. Tamondong of the Philippine Islands and The Reverend Duang Pantupong and The Reverend Amonn Duangnetne of Thailand.

#### CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOURERS MEET

The Pacific Area Conference of Christian Endeavour will be held July 30-August 2, at Hoshino Hotsprings near Karuizawa. Fifteen delegates, including Dr. and Mrs. Daniel A. Poling and Mr. Earl W. Gates (Canada), arrived on July 24. Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa will speak on "Mission Movements in Japan", Mr. Soichi Saito, General Secretary of the National YMCA on "Ideological Tendencies of Japanese Young People," and Professor Toru Matsumoto of Meiji Gakuin of "Problem Students are facing." Seventy Japanese delegates are planning to participate.

#### REPORT FROM THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The Institute on Mission of the United Church has just completed a study of Japanese Human characteristics in order to present a





clearer picture of the type of people the church is endeavouring to develop. The study, which was under the leadership of Professor Mikio Wakiya, treats the subject psychologically, sociologically, philosophically, educationally, and theologically and has required more than a year to complete.

#### RELIEF GOODS FOR HOKURIKU FLOOD SUFFERERS

Heavy rains in mid-July caused much damage and human suffering in Ishikawa, Niigata, Fukushima, Yamagata and Toyama prefectures. 42 were dead, 28 injured, and 19 missing at latest report. Since transportation facilities were almost completely disrupted at Wajima, Ishikawa prefecture, a U.S. helicopter was secured on July 18 to carry 2,000 lbs of beans, 726 lbs of butter, 540 lbs of milk, and nine bales of clothing. Supplies were also sent to the Aizu-Wakamatsu church in Fukushima for distribution.

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A telegram of appreciation for help given during the flood was received by Japan Church World Service on July 23 from the Mayor of Wajima city, Ishikawa prefecture.

#### BLIND MASSEUR CONTRIBUTES TO BLIND LEPERS

A blind Christian masseur has contributed ¥200 to the Japan Christian Council of Evangelism for the Blind for purchasing Braille books for blind lepers. He writes that, because his faith has been helped by the Braille books he "reads", he plans to send two or three hundred yen a month for this purpose. Secretary Imakoma of the Council says: "There are some two thousand blind lepers who are not even able to borrow books from other lepers. Mr. K., who wishes to remain anonymous, knows this situation very well and hopes in this way to spread his faith to others."

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Dr. Antei Hiyane, Professor of Aoyama Gakuin University has just returned from a year at Drew Theological Seminary as exchange professor.

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Professor Soichiro Iida of Tokyo Woman's Christian College, has been appointed head of the Placement Department of International Christian University. The first class will graduate in the spring of 1957.

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Religious terminology is a problem for the Japanese as well as foreigner. On the one hand, there is considerable confusion as to how foreign terms and titles should be translated into Japanese, and on the other, no uniformity exists regarding the correct English translation for Japanese term. To correct this the National Christian Council is planning to appoint a committee on "Christian Terminology"

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An International Students Conference attended by forty representatives from the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaya, USA, Hongkong, Germany and forty-five Japanese, was held at International Christian University July 16-19.

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Two Christian Student Caravans have been organized at International Christian University. One will tour the Tohoku (north-east) region this month under the leadership of a science professor and one under the leadership of the Reverend Masazumi Toyotome, University chaplain will visit Hokkaido.

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Mr. Hideaki Koyano of the Salvation Army and a director of the Church School Department of the National Christian Council, is attending a meeting of officers in London July 19-August 1.

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Mrs. Clifford Hotell, of the Council of  
Church and Education

